

Authority

7 CFR 226.18(a)

7 CFR 226.18(a)(1)

7 CFR 226.18(a)(2)

7 CFR 226.18(b)

100. Introduction1. Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is administered by the Arizona Department of Education and funded by the federal government. The primary goal of the CACFP is to improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children and adults in care while promoting the development of good eating habits. Sponsors participating in the CACFP must serve meals to all enrolled participants. 7 CFR 226 is the federal authority that the CACFP operates under.

The CACFP plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. Each day, 2.9 million children receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP. In addition, the program also provides meals and snacks to 74,000 adults who receive care in nonresidential adult care centers. CACFP reaches even further to provide meals to children residing in homeless shelters and snacks and suppers to youths participating in eligible after school care programs.

CACFP specialists are responsible for ensuring that eligible sponsors meet the requirements necessary to participate in the program. CACFP specialists shall:

- Conduct training on program policy and procedures, application procedures and provide nutrition education;
- Monitor the food program to ensure federal regulations are being adhered to;
- Provide technical assistance as needed; and
- Provide information on audit and administrative review requirements.

2. CACFP Mission Statement

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) works with community sponsoring organizations to improve the nutritional status of the participating children and adults and thereby to promote school readiness, good health and quality of life. CACFP provides training, technical assistance, financial resources and oversight for community

sponsor organizations and assures the appropriate use of public resources.

3. **CACFP Vision Statement**

Arizona children and adults participating the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are served nutritious meals as a result of the competent work of the community sponsor organizations, the positive relationship between the community sponsor organizations and the Arizona Department of Education, the quality of support and oversight provided by CACFP staff and strong community linkages and ownership. CACFP serves child and adults throughout Arizona and is widely recognized and highly valued.

4. **Day Care Homes**

A family or group day care home must sign an agreement with a sponsoring organization to participate in CACFP. Day care homes must be licensed or approved to provide day care services. Reimbursement for meals served in day care homes is based upon eligibility for tier I rates (which targets higher levels of reimbursement to low-income areas, providers or children) or lower tier II rates.